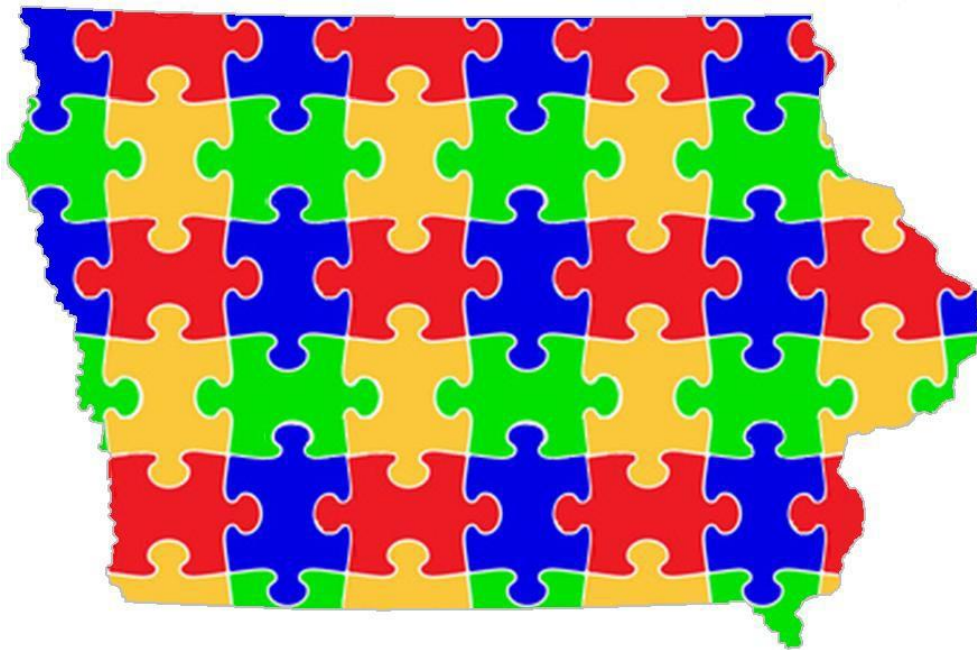


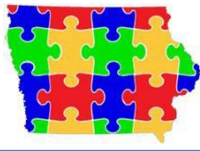
# **IOWA AUTISM COUNCIL**

## **2013 PRIORITIES**

**Moving Iowa Forward**

**Iowa Autism Council**





# Iowa Autism Council

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To the Members of the House and Senate of the State of Iowa,

Over the last several years, the Iowa Autism Council (Council) has had the opportunity to partner with members of both houses to create laws that affect positive change for persons living with Autism Spectrum Disorders and their families. One such success was “Drew’s Bill”, Iowa Code Section 514C.28, which required group health plans established pursuant to chapter 509A for employees of the state to provide coverage benefits to covered individuals under twenty-one years of age for the diagnostic assessment of autism spectrum disorders and the treatment of autism spectrum disorders, which included Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA). Another was Senate File 446 which created the Autism Support Program in Iowa Code Division XVII, Section 82 and the Autism Support Fund (Heaton Autism Fund) created in Division XVII, Section 83, Chapter 225D.2, funding ABA treatment for persons not eligible through the medical assistance program, 514C.28, or through private insurance coverage.

The Council is encouraged by the progress made but is writing to say there is still more to accomplish.

The rules that the Code requires be made, and which the Council advises on, can only provide context or clarification, they cannot change the actual wording of the law or dictate budgets. Due to procedural requirements of the process necessary for implementing the administrative rules under Section 225D.2(1), the Council is requesting that the Legislature extend the \$2 million allocation in the Heaton Autism Fund for FY ’15 in our budget next year. The extension is necessary because the draft rules won’t be finalized until February 2014, when the administration of the plan was to begin January 1, 2014, and will be followed by intake requirements and other administrative realities. Under the original timeframe, there was only a short period of time in which eligible claims could be submitted and the delays have made this window even smaller. This funding is a vital step forward in providing access to treatment to those who would otherwise be ineligible and the extension will ensure the program has the opportunity to prove it’s worth and efficacy.

The Council will gladly provide additional input, if desired, at the Legislature’s convenience.

For the Council,

Steve Muller

Chair, Iowa Autism Council

# Iowa Autism Council

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## Financing of Care Recommendations

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### Medicaid initiatives (not all-inclusive):

1. Require Department of Human Services (DHS) to amend the Intellectual Disabilities waiver to add Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) as an eligible group and determine eligibility through an individual clinical assessment that is based upon need and functional impairment criteria.
2. Increase availability for Iowans with autism to live in their community through the expansion of Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) certified homes and Intermediate Care Facilities-Intellectual Disability (ICF-ID) licensed homes of 4 persons or less.

### Non-Medicaid initiatives (not all-inclusive):

1. Amend the Hawkeye Healthcare plan to ensure that behavioral treatments such as Applied Behavior Analysis are covered treatments.
  2. Expand the coverage that was passed for state employees last year for ASD treatments to all insurance plans regulated by state insurance rules.
  3. Ensure that BCBA's and BCaBA's are recognized providers for ABA treatment by the state and state regulated plans. As long as they are certified by the national BCBA Certification Board and are in good standing.
  4. Ensure that clear standards are set for supervision that are not unduly arbitrary, but are guided by the national BCBA certification standards.
  5. Continue to monitor access requirements and funding levels for the \$2million dollar fund. It is essential that providers who are BCBA's have access to provide services and supervise line therapy. This will ensure that families will be able to access care when funding is released.
  6. Replace the dollar cap on county property tax levies with a levy rate cap and allow counties flexibility in determining which base year to use as the capitation rate. The additional revenue will help fund adult mental health and disability services. The Council believes that if this legislation was introduced as a "stand alone" bill it would have bi-partisan support and support from counties.
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# Diagnosis and Early Intervention Care Recommendations

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1. Understand the current facilities that diagnosis autism and where the gaps are.
  - a. What is the average waiting time for diagnosis
2. Continue to work to expand early intervention programs for children

## Adult Services

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1. Review programs and services offered in other states
2. Transition services
  - a. What employment opportunities are currently available in Iowa
  - b. What employment opportunities are working in other states that can be implemented here, e.g., King County Washington
  - c. What housing options are available
  - d. Develop a model program to support living and working in the community rather than in state facilities
3. Post-Secondary options
4. Transportation
5. Funding of services
6. Develop timelines and committee to complete

## Education Services

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1. What is the curriculum and how institutes of higher education (IHE) relates to the result of DOE autism study
  - a. How are new teachers prepared
  - b. How are current teachers able to access established and emerging practices
2. Develop follow up surveys as outlined in DOE Autism Report
3. What options are available for care before and after school
4. Allow for families to move their educational dollars to an alternative program if the school is ill-equipped to provide proper programming.
5. Transition services
6. Implement timelines for the above items and drafting of information

# IOWA AUTISM COUNCIL MEMBERS

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## ***Voting Members***

***Alyson Beytien***

***Josh Cobbs***

***Theresa Croonquist***

***James Curry, Co-Chair***

***Rachel Heiss***

***Steve Johnson***

***Steve Muller, Chair***

***Robin Sampson***

***Matthew O'Brien***

***Jan Turbes***

***Andrew Waldschmitt***

***Linda Wessels***

***Family Member of a person with a Disability***

***Family Member of a person with a Disability***

***Insurance Industry Representative***

***Family Member of a person with a Disability***

***Licensed Psychologist***

***Insurance Industry Representative***

***Residential Service Provider***

***Family Member of a person with a Disability***

***Licensed Psychologist***

***Research Professional***

***Person with a Disability***

***Family Member of a person with a Disability***

## ***Ex-Officio Members***

***Rick Shults – Laura Larkin (Designee)***

***Kathy Levine***

***Becky Harker***

***Jim Mumford***

***Debra Waldron***

***Vacant***

***Sean Casey***

***Beth Buehler-Sapp***

***Iowa Department of Human Services***

***Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services***

***Governor's Developmental Disabilities Council***

***Iowa Insurance Commission***

***University of Iowa – Child Health Specialty Clinics***

***Iowa School for the Deaf***

***Iowa Department of Education***

***Iowa Department of Education***

Further findings are available with previous year's recommendations located at:

Iowa Department of Education located under the Iowa Autism Council you may also contact: